**Wyoming Greater Sage-grouse WLFW**
**Threat Checklist**
**EQIP/WHIP**

**Participant:** _____

**Date:** _____ **Field Office:** _____

**Checklist completed by:** _____

**Instructions**: ***Indicate which potential threats to sage-grouse are present on the treatment unit(s) in an amount significant enough to be detrimental to the sage-grouse.*** Then identify which threats the landowner agrees to treat. These threats do not represent all possible threats to sage-grouse but are those that are generally within the control of the landowner and can be addressed through the Sage Grouse Initiative.

| Potential Threats | YES | NO | Treatments | Threat Addressed? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Can the producer change their current grazing management to improve sustainability of the range resource?<br><br>Range Sustainability Goal: A trend of increasing vigor and production of desirable plant species and adequate plant and litter cover to capture and conserve precipitation. | | | Implement a grazing management strategy that allows for **sustainable range health**. NRCS Practices- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Prescribed Grazing (528), Fence (382), Watering Facility (614) and associated practices. **Note: 528 will be contracted and is the required practice to implement improved grazing management. Use the 528 standard and specification to design the grazing strategy. 645 is required to be part of the Conservation Plan.** | |
| 2. Can the producer change their current grazing management to improve residual grass cover in sage-grouse nesting habitat to maximize nest success?<br><br>Nesting Cover Goal: Average perennial grass cover at least 6" in height during the period between March 15th through July 15th within areas of 10% or greater sagebrush canopy cover. Average perennial grass cover of 4" during the same period is acceptable in areas receiving Total Average Annual Precipitation of 10" or less. | | | Implemented a grazing system on sagebrush habitat to improve sage-grouse nesting and early brood rearing habitat. At least 20% of total grazingland acres enrolled must improve residual cover for sage grouse nesting and early brood rearing habitat. In order to achieve this, implementation of a rest/rotation grazing system or a deferred grazing system with light utilization will likely be required. A minimum of 10% canopy cover of sagebrush is required on 20% of enrolled acres and participant must be able to reach a planned value of 0.5 for the Sage-grouse WHEG in the pastures managed for increased residual cover. 80% of the **remaining** rangeland must, at a minimum, meet a planned value of 0.5 for the Rangeland WHEG.<br><br>Stocking rates on all grazing units must adhere to recommended NRCS stocking rates. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Prescribed Grazing (528), Fence (382), Watering Facility (614) and associated practices. **Note: 528 will be contracted and is the required practice to implement improved grazing management. Use the 528 standard and specification to design the grazing strategy. 645 is required to be part of the Conservation Plan.** | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Are noxious or invasive weeds present in amounts detrimental to the habitat? (≥ 25% invasive weed cover on offered acres) | | | Design and implement an integrated pest management plan that treats identified noxious and/or invasive weeds. NRCS practices - Integrated Pest Management (595), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314) | |
| 4. Is there significant invasive tree/shrub (junipers, conifers, Russian olive, salt cedar) encroachment into sagebrush grasslands or late brood rearing (riparian) habitat? | | | Remove all encroaching invasive trees and shrubs. Native cottonwoods or willows will not be removed from riparian sites. NRCS Practices- Brush Management (314), Range Planting (550). **Note: Practice 314 will be used to mechanically remove encroached conifers and Practice 550 will be used if desired herbaceous response is unlikely without seeding.** | |
| 5. Are any mesic areas (seeps, springs, swales, wet meadows) dewatered (not functional) and failing to provide abundant succulent forbs for sage grouse broods? | | | Retrofit developed springs to provide wet seeps when tanks are full or not in use and restore degraded draws to pre-altered conditions to mimic historic moist soil conditions. Protect springheads. NRCS Practices- Spring Development (574), Pipeline (516), Fence (382), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Channel Stabilization (584). **Note: 574 and 516 will be used to restore altered spring areas, 410 or 584 will be used to restore the hydrology in degraded drainages.** | |
| 6. Have sage grouse (adults, juveniles, or chicks) been observed using hay fields near operating haying equipment? | | | Utilize wildlife friendly haying techniques such as mowing only during daylight hours, inside-out haying, or installation and use of a flushing bar; and maintain an unharvested strip of hay a minimum of .5 acre and 30' wide for every 40 acres. NRCS Practice- Forage Harvest Management (511) | |
| 7. Are there junk piles, livestock dead piles, garbage pits, or other obstructions within or near sagebrush grasslands? | | | Utilize Obstruction Removal (500) to remove or bury structures that could facilitate increased predation or habitat fragmentation. | |
| 8. Are there fences located within the high collision risk area as identified by the 2012_sg_fence_collision GIS layer or that pass through Sage grouse concentration areas (i.e. important winter habitat, brood habitat, etc.)? | | | Remove or mark problem fences. NRCS Practices - Fence (382), Obstruction Removal (500). **Note: Fish & Wildlife Structure (734) will be used to design and provide financial assistance for fence marking projects. Practice 500 will be used to remove problem fences. Some fences, due to local vegetation or topographic conditions can be exempted from marking with written recommendation of an agency biologist.** | |
| 9. Other than at the headquarters, are there stock water tanks without properly designed and installed escape ramps? | | | Install wildlife escape ramps into all existing tanks. NRCS Practice- Fish & Wildlife Structure (734) **Note: Fish & Wildlife Structure (734) will be used to design and provide financial assistance for escape ramp projects.** | |

| Potential Threats | YES | NO | Treatments | Threat Addressed? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. Are there transmission lines, controlled by the landowner, which can be removed and replaced with solar systems? | | | Install solar power and pump and remove transmission lines. NRCS Practices- Obstruction Removal (500), Pumping Plant (533). **Note: 500 will be used to remove existing power lines, 533 will be used to address solar power source and associated pump. Prior to finalizing any contract, advise the landowner to consult with their local REA or power company to determine line ownership and abandonment procedures and authorizations.** | |
| 11. Are there unneeded access roads, controlled by the landowner, which can be removed and revegetated? | | | NRCS Practices- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (Ft.) (654) (11/08), Range Planting (550), Critical Area Planting (342). | |
| **Number of Threats Present** | | **Number of Threats Addressed** | | |
| | | | **Percent of Potential Threats Treated** | **%** |